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CREEP FEEDING OF OATS TO CALVES ON PASTURE

This trial has two objectives. The first is to compare gains and cost of gains of calves, on pasture, that have access to oats in creep feeders, and calves on the same pasture that do not have access to oats. The second objective is to compare the performance of these calves in the feed lot.

Table 19 shows the average weaning weights and amount of oats fed in this trial for the five year period 1961 - 1965.

Table 19. Average Weaning Weights and Amount of Oats Fed in the Trial Comparing Creep Feeding of Oats to Calves on Pasture, and Calves on Pasture only.

Year	Average Weaning Weights		Av. Difference Lbs. Per Head	Lbs. Oats Per Calf	Lbs. Oats Per Lb. Added Gain
	Creep Fed	Pasture Only			
1961	383.7	347.4	36.3	171	4.7
1962	391.4	365.2	26.2	179	6.8
1963	387.0	353.1	33.9	324	9.6
1964	397.3	392.0	5.3	122	23.0
1965	379.1	362.9	16.2	113	7.0
5 Year Av.	387.7	364.1	23.6	182	10.2

Calves getting oats on pasture have been heavier at weaning in this trial in each of the five years the trial has been

conducted. The average difference in weaning weight is 23.6 pounds per head. The creep feeding of calves did not affect the weight gains of cows appreciably during the pasture season. Table 20 summarizes cow weights for the 5 year period 1961 - 1965.

Table 20. Cow Weights on Pasture Where Calves are Creep Feeding on Oats and on Pasture Where there is no Creep Feeding.

Comparison	Average Weights - 1961 - 1965		
	June	October	Difference
Cows With Calves On Creep Feeders	1054	1099	45
Cows With Calves On Pasture Only	1041	1084	43

A comparison has also been made of the feed lot performance of the steer calves from this trial. The ration fed to these steers in 1965 was 24 pounds corn silage, 1.0 pound alfalfa hay and 5.2 pounds rolled barley, plus 1 pound supplement. Rations fed in previous years were similar to the 1965 ration. These steers went into the feed lot at an average initial weight of 378 pounds and were sold when they reached about 1000 pounds. They were on feed for 340 days.

Table 21 shows the feed costs and carcass data for the 1965 trial. Table 22 gives the gains produced in the feed lot for the five year period, 1961 - 1965.

Table 21. Feed Costs, Dressing Percent and Grade of Steers From Pasture With Creep Feeders and Steers from Pasture Without Creep Feeders.

	Creep Fed	Non-Creep Fed
Total Head	8	8
Initial Weight	377.5	377.5

Final Weight	1003.8	1035.0
Gain	626.3	657.5
Days on Feed	340	340
Average Daily Gain	1.91	1.84
Feed Cost/100 Pounds Gain	$11.79	$11.36
Feed/100 Pounds Gain	1707	1652
Dressing Percent	57.49	56.23
Grade	1 Prime, 7 Choice	5 Choice, 3 Good
Carcass Value	$234.33	$231.93
Daily Ration	Creep Fed	Non-Creep Fed
Silage	24.03	24.19
Rolled Barley	5.20	5.20
Alfalfa Hay	1.17	1.17
Supplement	1.0	1.0

Table 22. Feed Lot Gains of Steers from Pasture With Creep Feeders and Steers From Pastures Without Creep Feeders.

Year	Average Gain / Pounds Per Head		
	From Creep Feeders	No Creep Feeders	Difference

1961	642	654	12
1962	640	655	15
1963	623	651	28
1964	622	651	29
1965	626	658	32
5 Year Average	631	654	23

Creep feeding oats to calves on Pasture has resulted in an average gain of 23.6 pounds more per head at weaning time than calves on similar pasture, but which do not have access to oats. However, when these calves go into the feed lot, those not getting oats on pasture make greater gains than do the calves that were getting oats on pasture. The average difference for the five year period, 1961 - 1965, is 23 pounds per head.

The calves creep fed in the period 1961 - 1962 were not kept separate in dry lot which makes it impossible to get the feed per 100 pounds gain and the cost per 100 pounds gain for those years.

In the trials since that date separate trials have been set up so that information could be obtained. Table 23 shows the feed costs, dressing percent and grade of steers from pastures with creep feeders and steers from pastures without creep feeders for 2 year period, 1963 - 1965.

Table 23. Feed Costs, Dressing Percent and Grade of Steers from Pastures With Creep Feeders and From Pastures Without Creep Feeders. 1963-65.

	Feed Per 100 Lbs. Gain	Feed Cost Per 100 Lbs. Gain	Dressing Percent	Average Grade
Pasture With Creep Feeders	1896	$12.21	57.24	Low Choice
Pastures Without Creep Feeders	1851	$11.80	56.70	High Good

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